

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Thrice Amended). A hand held gardening implement, comprising:

- a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a proximal end, and a distal end[;],
- a working element adjacent said frame member at said proximal end of said frame member[;],
- a generally rigid brace attached to said frame member adjacent said distal end of said frame member, wherein said brace has a forearm engaging surface; and
- a handle attached to said frame member intermediate said working element and said brace, said handle projecting away from said frame member generally transversely with respect to the longitudinal dimension of said frame member, whereby said handle and said brace enhance the downward force developed and applied by the user.

8 (Twice Amended). A hand held gardening implement, comprising:

- a frame member having a longitudinal dimension, a proximal end, and a distal end[;],
- a working element adjacent said frame member at said proximal end of said frame member[;],
- a generally rigid brace attached to said frame member adjacent said distal end of said frame member, wherein said brace has a forearm engaging surface; and
- a handle attached to said frame member generally transversely with respect to the longitudinal dimension of said frame member, wherein the forearm engaging surface is not in the same general plane as the frame member.